DAWN OF DC

THE FLASH

4

[LEGACY #804]

SPURRIER
DEODATO JR.
MULVIHILL

13+
TEEN

THE UNDISCOVERED REALM OF THE SPEED FORCE

HE'S GOT EVERYTHING HE EVER WANTED.
NOW HE WANTS MORE.

KNEEL BEFORE ZOD

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WRITTEN BY
JOE CASEY

ART BY
DAN McDAID

COVER BY
JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER

DC

THE MOST BRUTAL NEW SERIES OF THE YEAR STARTS IN JANUARY

He's been like this for an hour.

Didn't even wake the baby, coming downstairs, and that's a minor miracle.

But ***she*** heard.

Every day Irey feels the ***Speed Force*** more keenly. Like a ***spider,*** awake to every gossamer tremble...

To her, her father's lightest step is the ***thunder of a giant.***

He ***must*** know she's here. He can sense her too, surely?

...Except...

...he ***has*** been distracted. It's only days since the ***beast plague*** ended, but... even before that he was...

...off.

The tightness of his smile. The knee-jerk ***everything's-okay*** and ***I-love-you.***

Irey Park-West is thirteen and a half. She's done things normal people can't imagine.

The way ***she*** sees it, she's more adult than most adults. And she ***knows*** when someone's trying too hard.

DAD? ARE YOU ALL RI--

No acceleration.
No fading signature
of exotic energy to
fathom or follow.

None of the
vibrational
echoes she
normally feels,
like breezes
on her skin.

Her father is
quite simply--

--absent.

RHL CITY KEY

NEWS! SPORTS! SPANDEX!

BEASTLY CITYWIDE PANDEMIC CONTAINED BY SPEEDSTER ACTION

FLASH FAMILY BUSY BEES IN LOCAL OPERATION

MORPHOGENIC MENACE CAUSED MAYHEM FOR ALL, BUT COSTUMED CRISES HIT HARDEST BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

GUEST OP-ED BY LINDA PARK-WEST

Journal

Wally,
You said you tried to get back to the place you lost Max but couldn't find it.
Please keep trying - I'll do the same.
LMK if you hear anything. He can't be gone.
-Bart

170

160

150

"Chad."

TRY THOUGH I MIGHT, I CAN'T KEEP THIS PLACE OUT OF MY MIND.

THROUGH ALL THE STRANGENESS AND THE STRESS. ALL THE MYSTERIES PILING UP AROUND ME. IT CALLS.

SUPER-SPEEDING KIDS DYING ON MY BEAT. CONDESCENDING GODS. ROGUES SPROUTING NEW TOYS LIKE MOLD ON A CORPSE.

Freaking were-wasps.

LINDA. EYES FULL OF LOVE BUT... **SHADOWED** WITH DOUBT. JAI, SUFFOCATING IN BIG FEELINGS.

IREY, TOO BRAVE AND BOLD TO STOP AND LISTEN AND LEARN.

AND MAX. LOST IN A WORLD I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH BEING THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE. NOBODY IMAGINES YOU CAN'T KEEP ALL THE PLATES SPINNING.

Well.

NOTHING SPINS HERE. NOT MINDS. NOT WORRIES. NOT MEMORIES.

STILL. WORTH TAKING PRECAUTIONS.

LAST TIME I WAS HERE I FORGOT WHO I AM.

MAKES SENSE TO--

THAT'S SMART.

Wh-what?

TYING UP YOUR THOUGHTS SO YOU DON'T LOSE THEM. I DON'T THINK IT'LL **WORK**, BUT...

...STILL. **SMART.**

WHO SAID THAT?

YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE SEEN **TRY** THAT.

LAST TIME I WAS HERE I FORGOT WHO I AM.

MIND YOU, YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE SEEN HERE **AT ALL**, SO FAR AS I REMEMBER.

IT'S SO HARD TO TELL.

THE FLASH

ISSUE FOUR

"THE GALLERY"

WRITER:
SIMON SPURRIER

ARTIST:
MIKE DEODATO JR.

COLORIST:
TRISH MULVIHILL

LETTERER:
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

COVER BY:
MIKE DEODATO JR. & TRISH MULVIHILL

VARIANT COVERS BY:
MIKE DEODATO JR. & TRISH MULVIHILL
FRANY
JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ
MATT TAYLOR

EDITOR: CHRIS ROSA

GROUP EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI

Taped windows. Box flowers--sad but proud. Haunted people, walking tall in patched shoes. Irey's seen these neighborhoods before.

Always at speed.

Always passing through.

V E L S

These aren't the sorts of places you'd expect a ***hero.***

I KNOW YOU'RE THERE. I CAN ***FEEL*** THE SPEED FORCE FIZZING AROUND YOU.

Huh.

WELL, AREN'T ***YOU*** JUST SHARP ENOUGH TO CUT YOURSELF?

THUNDER-HEART.

LIBERTY BELLE. We meet again.

O-M-G!

IREY, I LOVE THAT ***JACKET!***

JESSE, YOUR ***HAAAAAIIIIR!***

Okay, okay, **hold** it. FIRST LET'S **ASSUME** YOU'VE TOLD ME YOUR DAD KNOWS YOU'RE OUT TONIGHT--

Erm.

--BUT WHY **HERE?** NO **WAY** DID BARRY ALLEN SEND **YOU** A TIP-OFF TOO.

Tip-off? YOU MEAN... FROM UNCLE BARRY'S **REAL-LIFE** JOB, WHEN HE'S NOT BEING DAD'S MENTOR? HE'S A-- A FORES... foren--

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR. COPS DID A RAID HERE. DRUGS, GUNS. BARRY SAID HE **FELT** SOME-THING--

--SPEED FORCEY. YEAH. IT'S... **THIS** WAY.

HEY, WHY DIDN'T HE INVESTIGATE FOR HIMSELF? HE'S STILL A **HERO,** RIGHT?

YEEEAH, BUT...*Look--* BARRY USED TO BE THE FLASH. **"THE,"** SINGULAR. HIM AND YOUR DAD-- THEY'RE **TOPFLIGHT.**

AT THAT LEVEL EVERYTHING'S **EPIC. GOOD** VERSUS **EVIL.** THE VILLAIN **RUNS,** FLASH **CHASES.**

WHEREAS THIS SORT OF STUFF, IT'S...

...ah...

"The desperate intrigues of those starved of opportunity, seeking a better life-- or just a moment's comfort."

YOU'VE BEEN READING YOUR MOM'S **OP-EDS,** *huh?*

Good girl.

ANYWAY, I THINK BARRY'S GOING **THROUGH** SOME STUFF. HE SEEMS KINDA... IN HIS OWN HEAD, LATELY.

BUT HE KNOWS I TAKE AN **INTEREST** IN MORE **SOCIALLY NUANCED** CASES, SO--

Sssshh!

:Sob:

Oh. OH **CHAD**-- Y-YOU--YOU WANTED TO BE A HERO SO **BAD,** AND YOU **WERE,** BABY! LOOK! LOOK AT THE **GIFT** YOU LEFT ME...

THANK YOU. **THANK YOU,** BABY.

:Sob: I miss you.

TSSSstt

IS THIS, *uh.* SOCIALLY NU-NUO--

Nuanced. YEAH. THAT WOMAN NEEDS **HELP.**

BUT... WE STILL **CHASE,** RIGHT?

:Sigh: YEAH, KID. WE STILL CHASE.

I'M AWARE-- AT A REMOVE-- THAT I SHOULD ASK WHO SHE IS. (He? They?)

I'M AWARE-- AT A REMOVE-- THERE ARE A BILLION SMART QUESTIONS.

AND YET...

...YET ALL THAT SEEMS TO MATTER TO YOU, IN *THIS* MOMENT, IS...

Why don't I find you stressful?

WH-WHAT I *MEAN* IS... THIS *PLACE*... IT'S PURE *SERENITY*. I WOULD'VE THOUGHT *ANY* OTHER PERSON... ANY OTHER *VOICE*... WOULD *RUIN* IT. BUT...

I BELONG.

LAST TIME I CAME HERE... a-after losing *Max*... I SANK THROUGH LOWER VIBRATIONS. THIS *GALLERY* WAS BENEATH EVERYTHING.

THE SPEED FORCE HAS TAKEN ME TO SOME WEIRD PLACES, BUT... I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.

WHAT LIES *DEEPER* THAN TIME OR SPACE?

CONCEPT, OF COURSE.

WHAT CAN ONE *TRULY* KNOW OF THE WORLD? ONLY THAT ONE'S *PERCEPTION* OF IT EXISTS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE SENSES AND THE MIND.

THE *REST* HAS NO PLACE IN A GALLERY OF TRUTH.

MEASUREMENT AND MEMORY AND MOVEMENT. ALL THAT IS UNTRUSTWORTHY IS PEELED BACK, UNTIL ALL THAT REMAINS...

...IS THE SWEET ILLUSION OF *NOW.*

STOP, PLEASE! WE JUST WANT TO TA--

WH-WHO ARE YOU?

ARE YOU COPS?!

I AIN'T HURTIN' NOBO--

HEY! Y-YOU GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL! ARE YOU OKAY?!

Irey-- someone's gonna get hurt. Sometimes the best move is to quit chasing, and--

THE FEMME FLASH FORCE NEVER QUITS!

Femme Flash Force? Are you serio--

WH-WHERE'D SHE GO?

LEAVE ME
ALONE!

IREY, SHE'S GOT A KNI--
MOVE!

AAAHHH

Irey, that was...

D-damn. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE GO ***INTANGIBLE*** THAT FAST.

THANKS. THOUGH, *uh--*

--THE TRICK'S IN THE SWITCHING ***BACK.***

You...PICKPOCKETED A SPEEDSTER... GOING THE ***OPPOSITE*** WAY... WHILE ***REGAINING SOLIDITY.*** THAT'S--that's...

FASCINATING.

I WAS GONNA SAY ***INCREDIBLE,*** BUT--

NO, NOT ***ME.*** CAN'T YOU SENSE IT? THIS CHEMICAL-- IT'S A ***SPEED FORCE CONDUIT.*** I bet this is how that ***Chad*** guy got powers too...

IREY-- WE NEED TO FIND THAT GIR--

The ***vibrations...*** THE ECHO OF THE GLOW... I THINK I CAN ***FEEL*** WHERE THIS ***CAME*** FROM.

...YOU CAN ***DO*** THAT?

DUNNO. NEVER TRIED. YOU ***GAME?***

KID, YOU ARE A ***BAD*** INFLUENCE.

WHY DO THE STATUES *CHANGE* WHEN I LOOK AWAY?

THIS IS REALITY AT ITS SLOWEST VIBRATION. THIS IS THE UNIVERSE AS IT EXISTS IN THE ABSTRACTION OF YOUR MIND.

SO... THIS IS A WORLD OF *MY* MAKING. SO WHEN I SEE... *uh...*

Mm. THE ***PRESENT*** IS AN IMAGINED CONVENIENCE. IT CANNOT PERSIST WHEN YOU CEASE TO ***OBSERVE*** IT.

HERE. ***WE'RE HERE!***

HER NAME IS ***IREY.***

DON'T YOU REMEMBER YOUR DAUGHTER?

"SHE IS A CHILD OF PAINFUL POTENTIAL AND UNSURPASSED ***WILL.*** A FLEET ***FLAME.***"

I'M SURE OF IT. THIS ***DRUG*** GOT MADE RIGHT IN THERE...

ALL RIGHT. WE TAKE OUR TIME-- STAKE IT OUT.

IN FACT, WE OUGHT TO CONTACT YOUR DAD. THAT ***GIRL*** STILL NEEDS OUR HELP, AND HE'LL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ***ALL*** THIS.

FOR IREY-- FOR ***ANYONE*** YOU LOVE-- YOU WOULD SHATTER WORLDS AND MOVE THE HEAVENS.

R-RIGHT. Right. SO... WHEN I SEE HER LIKE ***THIS***...

"...RUSHING HEADLONG INTO DANGER... THROWING HERSELF AT THE PROBLEM..."

IREY--***NO***-- ***WAIT!***

DAD'S BUSY!

...WHAT SHOULD I DO? IT FEELS LIKE I OUGHT TO ***KNOW.***

Ohhhh... your poor mind. NOBODY ***KNOWS,*** DO THEY? HOW CLOSE YOU'VE COME TO ***BURNING UP.*** SPENDING ALL YOUR ENERGIES ON OTHERS.

NO WONDER YOU LOSE YOUR ***SELF*** SO QUICKLY HERE.

YOU SO RARELY GIVE IT A THOUGHT.

HELLO?

What *is* all this?

SO... ARE **YOU** A FIGMENT OF MY MIND TOO?

I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW. I DON'T SUPPOSE IT MATTERS MUCH.

WHAT I **DO** KNOW IS... IF YOU WEREN'T BUSY SWAPPING ALL YOUR EXTRANEOUS THOUGHTS FOR THIS... **DREAM** OF PEACE--

What the--

KNK KNK

KNKNK

"--NOTHING IN EXISTENCE WOULD STOP YOU FROM GOING TO HER."

HOW **WOULD** I? I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS. I DON'T KNOW WHERE **I** AM.

WALLY... YOU STILL HAVEN'T FATHOMED HOW **DEEP** YOU'VE COME.

SPEED HAS NO MEANING WHEN ONE IS BEYOND **DISTANCE** AND **DIRECTION.** THE TRICK IS NOT TO SEE THIS AS A GARDEN OF STATUES...

...BUT AS A LABYRINTH OF **DOORWAYS...**

"...EACH LEADING TO THE TEMPLES OF YOUR HEART."

Och-- HOW ABOUT THAT? SET A BIG AUL' **BEAR TRAP** IN CASE ONE O' YOUSE **SPEEDSTERS** TRACKS US DOON-- INSTEAD WE CATCH A SCRAWNY WEE **RODENT.**

I-- I **KNOW** YOU. I'VE SEEN YOUR **MUG SHOT--**

YEH WEREN'T **INVITED,** LASS.

M... M...

...**MIRROR MASTER.**

Oh no.

No, NO, **NO!** DADDY'S **COMING,** SWEETIE, DADDY'S **COMING..**

Aye. BUT WELL-INFORMED OR OTHERWISE, I'VE NO **USE** FOR A BAIRN PLAYIN' THE BIG SHOT.

BE A TERRIBLE WASTE O' ALL THIS **TECH,** LETTIN' A WEE BRAT LIKE **YE** RUIN THE OPERATION.

TIME TO SHUT IT **DOON.**

AND YE CAN JUST BLOODY **BURN,** eh?

TNK

...

$%€£ that.

IREY! IREY?! WHERE ARE Y--

THUMP

Dad...?

Oh--

IREY, WHAT THE *HELL* WERE Y--

WALLY! DON'T BE MAD AT *HER!* I COULDN'T GET INSIDE!

I--I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT HER STRAIGHT HOME. IT'S *MY* FAULT.

No.

NO, I'M-- I'M NOT *MAD,* JESSE. NOT AT HER, ANYWAY. *OR* YOU.

I SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE.

Damn. Another souped-up Rogue...

I THINK HE TURNED THE SPEED FORCE INTO SOME SORT OF... DRUG.

LISTEN, THERE'S A GIRL I GOTTA FIND. GET IREY HOME, huh, WAL?

HE WAS EXPECTING YOU, DAD.

...DID HE HURT YOU?

Nah. TOO SLOW. HE JUST SORTA... REFLECTED AWAY. TOOK ALL HIS WEIRD LAB STUFF WITH HIM, TOO.

JUST... FOLDED IT AWAY. INTO A SHARD OF GLASS.

...DAD? YOU OKAY?

Hm? Oh, YEAH. SORRY. MY, uh.

MY MIND'S ELSEWHERE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

"An intelligent thriller with a complex story."—AIPT

IT'S THE AMAZONS VS. THE WORLD!

WONDER WOMAN

The game-changing new era from writer **TOM KING** and artist **DANIEL SAMPERE** is just getting started!

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DAWN OF DC

DC NATION INTERVIEW

PATRICK WILSON

ORM IN

AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM

Where is Orm at the start of *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*?

After the first film, we see Orm taken away and we assume he's going to prison. The question was where, and what kind of an underwater prison was he going to? The very cool surprise is that it's the complete opposite of an underwater prison. It's somewhere where he is deprived of water, his lifeblood. He's in a desert prison—so he is in a very, very dry, arid, lonely, sad prison.

What pushes Arthur to seek help from Orm in prison?

Arthur gets to a point where he has to seek Orm's help. Now, if you need Orm's help, you must be pretty desperate. When they figure out that Black Manta is behind some stuff, that's where Orm comes into play. Arthur knows that because Orm's the one who found Black Manta in the first place, he hopefully would know where he is now.

How do you describe the relationship between Orm and Arthur?

At the end of the last film, Orm is still Orm. He's still angry, he still carries a lot of resentment, but I think deep in there he has some respect for Arthur because he's earned the title of King. That doesn't mean that he still doesn't believe he's the rightful heir to the throne, but I think there's an understanding...we'll just say that.

Why do you think this movie is a great theatrical experience?

What I love about this movie is the humor and all those little moments that James puts in there. Like, you guys think it's funny when Topo the octopus plays the drums? Well, guess what, he's gonna be even bigger in this movie. I think it gives the movie a lightness that you can balance out with the big epic battle scenes. You need all those little funny jokes—however, the spectacle alone should get you there. Go see this in the theater!

AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM

IN THEATERS DECEMBER 22!

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